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PAGE 01 SEOUL 00219 110908Z
ACTION EA-12
INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 JUSE-00 IO-13 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /066 W
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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TS AUTH. REASON(S)
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DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☑
ERASE DENIED☐
IA OR INT RELATIONS

O R 110832Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8620
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
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E.O. 11652: N A
TAGS: SOPN, KS, US
SUBJECT: PRESS TREATMENT OF PAK TONG-SON CASE
REF: SEOUL 00194 (DTG 100841Z JAN 78)

1. PRESS JANUARY 11 GIVE PROMINENT COVERAGE TO SIGNING, LATE JANUARY 10, OF PROSECUTION ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT, AND TO REPORT THAT PAK WOULD BE INTERVIEWED IN US EMBASSY JANUARY 11. ARTICLES ALSO SUMMARIZED ARRANGEMENTS FOR HANDLING TESTIMONY. NOTING JOINT QUESTIONING OF PAK TO BEGIN JANUARY 13, AND THAT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON TESTIMONY IN U.S. COURST AND GRANTING OF IMMUNITY WILL ALSO BE SIGNED. CHOSON ILBO ALSO REPORTED INTERVIEW WITH VICE MINISTER OF JUSTICE YI CHONG-WON, NOTING INTER ALIA THAT "IT IS DESIRABLE THAT REPRESENTATIVE CAPUTO WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE QUESTIONING AS AN OBSERVER".

2. PAK'S ARRIVAL AT EMBASSY AFTERNOON OF JANUARY 11 WAS OBSERVED BY LARGE GROUP OF REPORTERS AND WILL UNDOBUTEDLY RECEIVE CONSIDERABLE COVERAGE TOMORROW.

3. EDITORIAL COMMENT HAS NOT FOCUSSED ON CIVILETTI GROUP,

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BUT WEEKEND PRESS CARRIED EDITORIALS STRONGLY CRITICAL OF WHAT OFFICIAL SEOUL SINMUN CALLED "WILD STATEMENT BY JAWORSKI". CHARACTERIZING HIS REMARKS AS "PALINGLY PROVOCATIVE" AND "OUTRAGEOUS", THE PAPER CONCLUDED WITH "HOPE THAT PAK CASE CAN BE SOLVED THROUGH CONTROL OF EMOTION AND MUTUAL RESPECT". COLUMNS IN CHOSON ILBO AND HANKUK ILBO SOUGHT EXPLANATION FOR JAWORSKI'S ACTIONS IN U.S. DOMESTIC POLITICS AND NOTE DIVISION BETWEEN HOUSE ETHICS COMMITTEE AND JUSTICE DEPARTMENT AS WELL AS DEVELOPMENT IN U.S. OF LESS CRITICAL ATTITUDES TOWARD KOREA AS IN EVANS-NOVAK COLUMN JANUARY 6. KYONGHYNAG SINMUN JANUARY 9 ALSO CRITICIZED JAWORSKI REMARKS BUT AT SAME TIME SAID "WE CONSIDER IT FORTUNATE THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS SENDING IT S DELEGATION TO FAITHFULLY IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH KOREA IN SPITE OF "NOISES" AMONG SOME PEOPLE IN THE U.S.".

4. TONGA ILBO JANUARY 9 CARRIES YI UNG-HUI REPORT FROM WASHINGTON WHICH STRESSES CONFUSION RESULTING FROM DIFFERENCES

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BETWEEN ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESS. YI NOTES CONGRESS IS ON DEFENSIVE AGAINST SUSPICION OF COVERUP, AND SAYS CHANGE FOR SPEEDY RESOLUTION OF CASE WAS LOST WHEN LACOVARA RESIGNED CHARGING THE ETHICS COMMITTEE WITH A WHITEWASH EFFORT. YI PREDICTS THAT "THE CONFUSION IN WASHINGTON WILL HARDLY FADE AWAY SOON".

SNEIDER

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